

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

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83.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Lumpers vs. splitters

- From Thomas E Payne (tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu) 13 Feb 1999:

Does anyone know who first used the terms "lumper" and "splitter" by any chance?
Thanks for your help.

~Tom Payne
Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Oregon
(tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu)

Mohawk MS

- From Paul-Andre Dubois (murielle.nagy@fss.ulaval.ca) 9 Feb 1999:

I am a Ph.D. student in History at Laval University in Quebec City. I am trying to find a manuscript entitled "Mohawk [Book of prayers in the Mohawk language]" that was listed in J. C. Pilling's *Bibliography of the Iroquoian Languages* (Washington, 1888, pp.119-120). In 1888, the manuscript belonged to Dr. W. H. Haynes of New York City, who got it from the late Dr. Robertson, Bishop of Missouri.

Are there any readers of the SSILA Bulletin who could help me locate this manuscript? I can be reached through the e-mail address above, or at the postal address below.

~Paul-Andre Dubois
22 Mont-Carmel, #1A
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 4A4, CANADA

Choctaw contacts

- From Marcia Haag (haag@mail.nhn.ou.edu) 8 Feb 1999:

For further information about the telecourse in Choctaw announced in Bulletin #82.4, readers can contact me or either of the following:

- Carolyn Elgin, the administrator handling the course at SIPI (Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute). Tel: 505-346-2347

- Joy Culbreath, Education Director, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Drawer 1210, Durant, OK 74702. Tel: 1-800-522-6170.

~Marcia Haag
4216 Blue Sage Road, Norman, OK 73072
(haag@mail.nhn.ou.edu)

Iroquois, IPA and other fonts

- From Lloyd Anderson (ECOLING@aol.com) 3 Feb 1999:

I have been working with Michael Foster on a standard font for linguistic work on Iroquoian languages. The result is I think very good. The Iroquois family lends itself well to a font which will permit automatic document transfer between Mac and Windows that preeses the character content, with all the characters treated as true text not as symbols, with fully double-clickable words, and even with a pretty good alphabetical sort!

I would be very interested in developing fonts with these same sets of superior properties for other language families. Of course, not all language families will be as easy as the Iroquois seems to have been.

Meanwhile, Ecological Linguistics has a new IPA font in process. It will have those same superior properties as a cross-platform font.

~Lloyd Anderson, Ecological Linguistics
P. O. Box 15156, Washington, DC 20003
(ecoling@aol.com)

The House of Small Languages -- update

- From Patrick (burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl) 21 Feb 1999:

Readers of the SSILA Bulletin may recall my announcement last year of an Internet art project called THE HOUSE OF SMALL LANGUAGES, on the web at:

<http://www.burgaud.demon.nl>

The project consists in the creation and the maintenance of a special web site devoted to the seriously endangered languages, all over the world. It is to be seen as a virtual work of art, "a work in progress", in permanent evolution.

I have entered (almost) all the languages of the Americas. But in most of the cases, I am still missing two important elements:

- (1) a picture of someone/or people speaking the language; and
- (2) a spoken sample of the language I can use to create a sound clip.

I welcome help in completing these pages.

~Patrick-Henri Burgaud
Zypendaalseweg 75, 6814 CE Arnhem
The Netherlands
(burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl)

83.2 UNESCO GRANTS FOR ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

- From Mily Crevels (micre@bs22.bs.uva.nl) 22 Feb 1999:

Applications to UNESCO (CIPSH) for Grants for the Study of Endangered Languages for the Biennium 2000-2001 are now called for. They are to be sent to:

M. Maurice Aymard
Secretary-General, CIPSH, UNESCO
1, Rue Miollis,
75732 Paris, France

as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail to:

cipsh@unesco.org

(CIPSH stands for International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies).

The applications should preferably consist of two to three pages only. They should consist of:

- A title, e.g. Application for financial support for the study of the x-language which is in danger of disappearing.
- Information on the person making the application: name, circumstances of work (institution, academic qualifications, full address, with fax and/or e-mail address if available).
- Name and circumstances of the language(s) to be studied or preserved: location, circumstances and grade of endangerment; whether unknown or studied to some extent by; number of speakers if known.
- Intended work: grammatical, lexical, text collection (the latter, with interlinear and free translation, and recordings, is particularly important in the case of moribund languages); work directed at preserving an endangered language, etc.
- Are local persons or institutions collaborating and involved other than just as informants? (this is much desired by UNESCO).
- Are results expected to be published?
- Any other information of relevance.

Note that UNESCO will never fund a research project alone, but expects other financial help (university or other institution, other grants, private funds etc.) to be also available

for it. The upper limit for these grants applied for to UNESCO (CIPSH) which are intended to constitute only seed money for projects receiving also support from elsewhere, is US\$10,000 for each application for the biennium 2000-2001.

At the end of the application, a financial breakdown and a somewhat detailed budget in US dollars should be added. Eventual other sources of financing should also be mentioned. It should be kept in mind that the primary purpose of the UNESCO grant applied for is to make it possible for the specified research to be carried out with the ultimate aim to allow the research to result in a publishable manuscript, and to assist in its publication. Salaries and other remuneration of the researcher(s) applying should not be included in the application. They are expected to be paid by the university or other institution or establishment at or for which the applicant is working or is attached to, and at which research into and study of endangered languages could be regarded as being in the framework of their usual activities. Such research, writing up and publishing may require special extra funding, which is the purpose of the UNESCO (CIPSH) seed money. Its main purpose is to assist in the preparation, for publication, of the results of endangered language research and study. Financial support, if granted for an application, will be paid separately for 2000 and 2001. Decision on applications submitted now will be taken at the end of 1999.

--Stephen A. Wurm
Australian National University

83.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Maya Meetings at Texas (Austin, Texas, March 11-20)

The 1999 Maya Meetings at Texas will open with the XVIth Texas Symposium, Thursday & Friday, March 11-12. This year's theme is "Across the Abyss: Ancestors and Otherworlds in Mesoamerica". It will be held at the Performing Arts Center on the U of Texas campus (fee \$50).

On Friday evening, March 12, Peter Mathews of the U of Calgary will give a public lecture, "Introducing Maya Glyphs". It will take place in the UT Undergraduate Teaching Center (fee \$7).

The XXIIIrd Linda Schele Forum on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 13-14. Formerly known as the Workshop on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing, the Forum consists of 12 hours of lectures and discussion, in 4 sessions. It will be presented this year by David Stuart, Stephen Houston, and John Robertson. No prior knowledge of the glyphs is required, but some familiarity with the Maya is presupposed. It will be held in the UT Performing Arts Center (fee \$50, including a copy of the Forum Notebook).

The XVIIth Long Workshops will be held during the week of March 15-20. They will be divided into a Maya hieroglyphic workshop, a Mixtec codices workshop, and several advanced seminar groups. Kathryn Josserand and Nicholas Hopkins will offer a workshop on Classic Maya and Chol Grammar, and other groups will focus on Chichen Itza, Xochicalco, Maya Ceramic Texts, the Dresden Codex, Verbs in the inscriptions, Zapotec Glyphs, the Epi-Olmec/La Mojarra Script, and the Southeast (US) Ceremonial Complex. (Fee for the Workshops is \$210).

For registration, or further information, contact:

Peter Keeler, Maya Meetings
P. O. Box 3500
Austin, Texas 78764-3500
tel: 512/471-6292 (= 471-MAYA)
e-mail: mayameet@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu

Hispanicization in Austronesian & Amerindian Languages (Bremen, April 16-18)

An international conference on Language Contact and Intercultural Processes in Austronesian and Amerindian Languages, with a focus on Hispanicization, will be held April 16-18, 1999, in Bremen, Germany. 22 invited speakers will be participating, from the US, Germany, Spain, Mexico, The Marianas, Holland, Colombia, and New Zealand. For further information contact Thomas Stolz (stolz@uni-bremen.de) or Klaus Zimmermann (kzimmermann@uni-bremen.de).

Conference on Salish & Neighbouring Lgs (Kamloops, BC, August 18-20)

The 34th International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages will be held at the Chief Louis Center in Kamloops, BC, from Wednesday August 18 through Friday August 20, hosted by the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society (SCES) of the Shuswap People. Papers on all aspects of the study, preservation, and teaching of Salish and other Northwest languages are welcome.

Conference coordinators are Marianne Ignace and Mercedes Q. Hinkson. If you plan to attend the conference, submit a paper, or order preprints, please contact Mercedes at your earliest convenience at:

SCES/SFU
345 Yellowhead Hwy
Kamloops, BC V2H 1H1
Canada

e-mail: hinkson@sfu.ca
tel: 250/828-9799
fax: 250/828-9864

Camera-ready hard copies of papers must be received by July 1 if they are to be included in the conference proceedings. Late papers will be scheduled as time permits.

Kamloops is a very busy city during the summer and it is wise to make hotel reservations well in advance. For a list of hotels and motels where rooms have been reserved at special rates, and for more conference information, visit the SCES website:
<http://www.secwepemc.org>

Endangered Languages and Education (Maynooth, Ireland, Sept. 17-19)

The third in a series of annual workshops and conferences hosted by the Foundation for Endangered Language (UK) will be held in Ireland on 17-19 September, at St Patrick's College Maynooth, near Dublin. The theme will be "Endangered Languages and Education".

When a language is endangered, it is because the community that uses it may cease to do so the foreseeable future. This is often because new generations of the community are not acquiring the language, or if they do, are not using it so much as speakers in the past. Education, seen as any formal process whereby knowledge is passed on to new people, usually plays an important part in such changes. But it may act to promote, resist or even reverse the loss of a language.

Among the questions that will be addressed at this conference are:

- How can education programmes be formulated with clear reference to, and respect for, local culture?
- Who will be the teachers in such programmes, and how can they be trained?
- In setting up such programmes, is there a useful role for international organizations (as FEL) to help in negotiations with local administrations or national governments, and indeed international programmes?
- Ethically and empirically, what is the right balance between option and compulsion in the curriculum?
- How does the role for minority languages bear on the balance between mother tongue and foreign-language instruction?

It will be a particular feature of the conference to bring the concerns of "ethno-education", where education mediates between cultures that have been separate, into contrast with those of "bilingual education", where there has been traditional co-existence, but the smaller language may be losing out.

Presentations will last 20 minutes, with a further 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts (not exceeding 500 words) can be submitted in hard copy or electronically. They should be in English. The abstract submission deadline is March 21, and authors will be asked to submit camera-ready text by July 18. There will be a preliminary volume of proceedings distributed at the Conference.

For further information, contact: Nicholas Ostler, Batheaston Villa, 172 Bailbrook Lane, Bath BA1 7AA, England (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk).

31st Algonquian Conference (Lafayette, Indiana, Oct. 29-31)

The 31st Annual Algonquian Conference will be held in conjunction with the 9th Annual Woodland National Conference of The Prophetstown Council for Preservation of Great Lakes Native American Culture, October 28-31, 1999, at the University Inn, Lafayette, Indiana. The organizers welcome presentations on topics from all disciplines relating to the Algonquian speaking peoples. Papers may be delivered in English or French. Speakers will be allowed 20 minutes for presentation with 10 minutes for discussion following the presentation. There are two main tracks for the conference: Algonquian Language and Algonquian Culture. This is the first time that the Algonquian Conference has been held in Indiana and is an extraordinary opportunity to hear papers relating to Great Lakes Tribes and meet those who are working on cultural preservation in Canada, the United States and Europe.

Please send requests for information and presentation proposals of not more than one page, with presentation title and equipment needs to:

Nick Clark, Chair
Prophetstown Council
22 N. Second Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47901

Proposals are due by August 31, 1999

83.4 NAVAJO LANGUAGE LABORATORY

- From Alyse Neundorf (aneundorf@gallup.unm.edu) 8 Feb 1999:

The Navajo Language and Linguistics Program at the Univ. of New Mexico at Gallup, in Gallup, New Mexico, needs input from language teachers who have had some experience in utilizing language labs. In the next couple of months UNM-Gallup will have a fully installed and fully functioning language lab for the 80+ students in Elementary Navajo courses. Navajo language is taught by the Language Experience method and in the Whole Language for Adults mode. We are looking for approaches and strategies that are compatible with language labs. We are also interested in communicating with people who are working in the area of language and culture maintenance using labs and computers. Contact us for more information: Navajo Language Program, UNM Gallup Campus, 200 College Road, Gallup, NM 87301 (e-mail: aneundorf@gallup.unm.edu; tel: 505;863-7676).

83.5 PROPOSED AAA SESSION: TEMPORAL COHERENCE IN NARRATIVE

- From Frank Proschan (proschan@indiana.edu) 15 Feb 1999:

In keeping with the theme of the 1999 AAA meetings, "Time at the Millennium," I would like to organize a session examining temporal coherence in narrative--both conversational and traditional narratives. An especially interesting problem is how temporal coherence is achieved in those languages where time is not obligatorily marked through verbal inflection or other temporal markers. How is temporal coherence achieved, and how do auditors apprehend temporality, even in the partial or complete absence of overt markers? What are some of the conceptions of non-ordinary time that may be typical of certain kinds of narratives (e.g., mythic time, magical time, prelapsarian time, antediluvian time, timelessness, eternity, etc.), and how are such special times marked? What are the timeframe-making and timeframe-breaking strategies and techniques of narrators, and are some unique to "tenseless" languages? How are relative times expressed, and how are different narrated moments embedded or layered? What are the problems involved in translation from a "tenseless" language to one where tense is obligatorily indicated?

If you are interested in taking part in this session, please contact me at the address below.

--Frank Proschan
Folklore Institute, Indiana University
504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47408-3890
(proschan@indiana.edu)
tel: 1-812-855-9073 fax: 1-812-855-5584

83.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Bilbo, Mark K. markkbilbo@mminternet.com
Briggs, Charles clbriggs@weber.ucsd.edu
Cameron, Terry D. terryc@techreps.com
Wilson, Peter J. peter_wilson@ocdsb.edu.on.ca